

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Edita Abad and I'm a New Haven resident,

I stand in support of **HB 6616: AN ACT CONCERNING EXPANSION OF HUSKY HEALTH BENEFITS TO THOSE INELIGIBLE DUE TO IMMIGRATION STATUS**. Expanding HUSKY access to all children and adults to age 26 regardless of immigration status is an important step in ensuring our immigrant community has access to the healthcare that we all deserve. Our work does not end with expanding access to 26 years of age; We need to open access to HUSKY and healthcare to all immigrants of any age. If Connecticut wants a future that includes healthy families and a stable workforce, Connecticut must make sure these people have access to health coverage.

I really pray to God that this legislation is approved because it would help many low-income people. One comes to this country for better opportunities but life is hard, there are not many resources. If this legislation is approved, God bless you.

I came here with my 6 year old son and I was pregnant and they gave us medical coverage. My son was only covered for 1 year and after that he did not have medical insurance. Every year we have to do the physical exam and we have to pay, we have to pay for the teeth cleaning...we have to pay for all that and it's very difficult. Who would not like to have health insurance?

I once took my son to the hospital for constipation and they didn't do much to help him in the hospital. My son's dad took him to the hospital bathroom and that's what helped him get better. But we still got a thousand dollar bill. I felt scared because I didn't know how I was going to pay that much money. The financial assistant called me from the hospital to help me reduce my bill, but it was a long and difficult process. They helped me apply for Yale New Haven Hospital's (YNHH) financial assistance program and I no longer had to pay. But it was a super long process, they asked me for job letters and all that.

I applied for the financial assistance program at YNHH, but every year we have to renew it and they ask us for a letter of employment from work. Sometimes our jobs do not want to give us the letter of employment and it is uncomfortable and difficult. I do want the authorities to take us into account and to help us with health insurance for our children. No one is safe from needing surgery. I have seen friends who have to get surgery for their children for appendicitis and it is not possible.

Approving this legislation would be a good option because it would prevent us from going through so many problems. From asking for employment letters and asking for help to get financial assistance. If we had health insurance, it would solve our problems. I have a son born here and with him I have no problems going to the doctor. My other son doesn't have insurance and well, we have to pay for medicine, teeth cleaning, and if you don't have money, that's the problem. I sometimes say "today I don't have money and well, I don't have any way to take you to the doctor". And how nice it would be to say to my son "I can take you to the doctor even though I don't have money"

I support **HB 6616** and ask the committee to support and pass this legislation. Looking forward to the future, I ask the committee to open access to all immigrants regardless of age.

Thank you for your time,,

Edita Abad